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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2018

TAGS: IS MARR MCAP PINS PREL

SUBJECT: CLUSTER MUNITIONS WORKING GROUP

Classified By: PM DAS FRANK RUGGIERO REASONS 1.4 (B,D)

¶1. (U) ACTION REQUEST: Request Embassy Tel Aviv pass the following at paragraph 2 as a nonpaper to appropriate officials within the Government of Israel's Ministry of Defense.

¶2. (S) Begin Nonpaper:

(SECRET//REL ISRAEL)

The U.S. and Israel agreed at the March 20, 2008 Joint Political Military Group (JPMG) meeting to create a Cluster Munitions Working Group (CMWG) to review classified agreements on cluster munitions (CM) and map the way ahead on future CM usage.

The United States proposes holding the first CMWG meeting on May 1, 2008 in Tel Aviv. The U.S. delegation will be lead by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security and Defense Trade Controls in the Bureau of Political Military Affairs. It will include representatives from the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the Office of the Legal Advisor, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, and U.S. European Command.

The United States proposes the meeting be comprised of four 90-minute sessions that would address:

(1) How Israel used CM in the 2006 conflict with Hizballah; the results of its internal investigation and the Winograd report; and what steps Israel has taken to address its use of CM in areas normally inhabited by civilians, including provision of targeting and other relevant information to the United Nations in order to facilitate clearance operations.

(2) What the classified agreements between our two countries entail and how they should be implemented.

(3) What operational circumstances and implications have emerged from the 2006 conflict and current U.S. legislation on CM, including Israel's access to U.S. War Reserve Stocks.

(4) What types of CM is Israel developing, and how can we clarify U.S. policy on CM exports to Israel.

To address appropriate details of these issues, the United States envisions a future meeting between U.S. Department of Defense and Israeli Ministry of Defense officials to discuss how Israel will use CM in the future. This group could report to the CMWG.

END NONPAPER

¶3. (U) POCs for this request are PM/RSAT: Brooke Milton Kurtz, 202-736-4035, MiltonKurtzBE@state.sgov.gov; and John Schwenk, 202-647-2558, SchwenkJA@state.sgov.gov.  
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